

★ ★ 2004 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL VEGETABLE REPORT ★ ★

Released: February 2005

2004 Vegetable Season: Conditions were continually wet throughout the entire growing season. The weather had varying effects upon different types of vegetables. Spring planting started out early because temperatures were above normal and topsoil moisture was adequate. The quality of spring vegetables was generally good. Wet conditions in late spring adversely affected harvest of spring vegetables and interrupted planting for summer crops. Frequent rains and wet conditions continued into the summer months. Some crops benefitted from the sufficient moisture, while other crops suffered losses. Fall planting acreage was lower than the normal level due to wet fields, but fall harvest was normal and the quality of crops was generally good. Production of asparagus, collards, kale, pumpkins, and spinach were significantly lower, while cabbage, cucumbers, leaf and Romaine lettuce, bell peppers, and sweet corn had much higher production. As the season concluded, total acres harvested of all principal vegetables (both fresh market and processed) showed a 5 percent increase, while total production showed a 9 percent increase from the previous year.

Vegetables for Fresh Market: There are 17 fresh market vegetables in the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service estimating program. Area harvested for these fresh market vegetables in 2004 totaled 33,800 acres, compared with 33,900 acres in 2003, down 100 acres. Production amounted to 5 million hundredweight, an increase of 5 percent from the 4.74 million hundredweight produced in 2003. Overall yield in 2004 averaged 148 hundredweight per acre, up 8 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price was \$25.90 per hundredweight compared with \$26.40 in 2003, down \$0.50 per hundredweight.

Among the fresh market vegetables, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, snap bean, spinach, summer squash and winter squash had higher harvested acres in 2004 than in 2003. Asparagus, and kale acres remained the same, while the remaining vegetable acres declined. Despite the decline of acreage and season average price, the higher production was enough to offset the decrease of a lower price and the value of production increased \$4.11 million to a total of \$130 million.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production, tomatoes were first with \$25.5 million, and bell peppers were second with \$23.2 million. Cucumbers, summer squash, and sweet corn were third, fourth, and fifth with \$15.5 million, \$11 million, and \$10.9 million, respectively.

Vegetables for Processing: Harvested acreage in 2004 of the eight major processing vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 9,100 acres, compared with 7,000 acres harvested in 2003 and 11,600 acres harvested in 2002. Harvested acres increased for most of crops with the exception of carrots and cucumbers which remained the same, and snap beans which showed a decline. Total production, at 65,970 tons, was a 26 percent increase from the 52,460 tons in 2003. The season average price was \$126.10 per ton, compared with \$141.40 per ton in 2003; down \$15.30 per ton. The 2004 value of production at \$8.32 million was up 12 percent from \$7.42 million in 2003.

***A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES TO ALL THOSE PRODUCERS
WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR VEGETABLE SURVEYS !***

New Jersey Principal Vegetables

Annual Summary - 2003 and 2004

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 1/	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	36	27	40	30	75.00	90.00	3,000	2,700
Cabbage	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,500	325	375	455	563	10.50	11.50	4,778	6,475
Collards 1/	700	600	600	500	175	175	105	88	24.50	23.50	2,573	2,068
Cucumbers	3,000	3,100	3,000	3,100	200	220	600	682	20.00	22.70	12,000	15,481
Eggplant 1/	800	800	700	800	210	210	147	168	31.50	32.00	4,631	5,376
Escarole & Endive 1/	700	700	700	600	130	175	91	105	24.00	23.10	2,184	2,426
Kale 1/	400	400	400	400	200	170	80	68	18.20	21.30	1,456	1,448
Lettuce, Head	900	900	900	800	175	205	158	164	22.00	23.60	3,476	3,870
Lettuce, Leaf & Romaine 1/	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,100	135	200	162	220	26.60	19.50	4,309	4,290
Peppers, Bell	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,500	245	265	882	928	29.00	25.00	25,578	23,200
Pumpkins 1/	2,800	2,300	2,500	1,800	75	80	188	144	11.50	24.00	2,162	3,456
Snap Beans	3,000	3,100	2,300	3,100	35	40	81	124	33.00	52.00	2,673	6,448
Spinach	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,900	140	90	252	171	30.00	22.20	7,560	3,796
Squash, Summer 1/	2,500	2,200	2,100	2,200	125	120	263	264	29.20	41.50	7,680	10,956
Squash, Winter 1/	1,100	1,000	700	900	73	70	51	63	25.50	17.60	1,300	1,110
Sweet Corn	8,500	8,200	7,800	7,500	65	70	507	525	23.90	20.80	12,117	10,920
Tomatoes	3,200	3,000	3,100	3,000	220	230	682	690	41.00	37.00	27,962	25,530
Total	36,900	35,700	33,900	33,800	140	148	4,744	4,997	26.40	25.90	125,439	129,550

Vegetables for Processing	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Total												
2/.....	7,600	9,200	7,000	9,100	7.49	7.25	52,460	65,970	141.40	126.10	7,419	8,317

1/ Not in the Federal Estimating Program, state estimate only.

2/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Processing vegetables include carrots, cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Carrots, cucumbers, and lima beans are not in the Federal Estimating Program, and are state estimates only.